

FULLER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

TH531 Kierkegaard
Fall Quarter 1985

Instructor: Dr. Colin Brown

Description: An introduction to the thought of Søren Kierkegaard (1813-55) against the background of his life and contemporary thought, based on select readings from Robert Bretall, ed., A Kierkegaard Anthology, 1936, currently published in paperback by the Princeton University Press.

Course Format: The course will be based on lectures and class discussion of selected texts from Kierkegaard. Following a general introduction, attention will be focussed on specific texts. Members of the class are expected to read the text in advance, so that they can participate in the discussion.

Course Requirements: Grades will be based partly on a written paper (40%) and partly on a weekly log which summarizes and appraises the material discussed in class (60%).

The paper should deal with one of Kierkegaard's major works, covering the entire work and not just the extract given in Bretall. The aim is to provide opportunity for an in-depth study of Kierkegaard at first hand. The aim of the log is to present an overview of Kierkegaard's writing and thought giving opportunity to interact with Kierkegaard's ideas. The log should be written up week by week. The paper is due in the first class in the 7th week of the quarter and the log on Friday of Exam Week.

The initial classes will review Kierkegaard's life and thought against the background of his times and the philosophical and religious thought of his age. The remaining classes will be devoted to a more detailed study of Kierkegaard's writings. Note will be taken of the following:

Either/Or (1843) (Bretall, 19-108)

Fear and Trembling (1843) (Bretall, 116-134)

Repetition (1844) (Bretall, 134-52)

Philosophical Fragments (1844) (Bretall, 153-72)

The Concept of Anxiety (1844) (not in Bretall)

Concluding Unscientific Postscript (1846) (Bretall, 190-258)

Edifying Discourses (1847) and Works of Love (1847) (Bretall, 270-322)

The Point of View for my Work as an Author (1848) (Bretall, 323-339)

The Sickness unto Death (1849) (Bretall, 339-71)

Training in Christianity (1850) (Bretall, 372-418)

The Attack upon "Christendom" (1854-55) (Bretall, 434-68)

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